



PATHE FRÈRES
Film d'Art

Assassination of the
Duke of Guise

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Mr. LE BARGO

ASSASSINATION OF THE DUKE OF GUISE

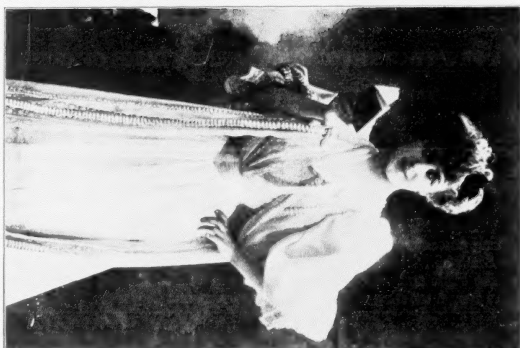


THIS historical drama was written specially for the PATHE FRÈRES "FILM D'ART" by Mr. Henri Levedan of the Académie Française, the well known author of "The Duel." The series of pictures are perfect in detail and intensely vivid and dramatic; the different parts are played by the following prominent French artists: Mlle. Robinne, Messrs. Le Bargy and Albert Lambert, all of the Comédie Française, Paris.

A FEW FACTS REGARDING HENRY DUKE OF GUISE.

Henry of Lorraine, Duke of Guise, was a member of one of the most powerful houses of France in the XVIth century. Henry of Valois, who was then King of France, greatly feared this ambitious Duke, lest at some time he should usurp the throne. Henry III., therefore, bearing in mind the lesson taught him by his mother, Catherine of Medici, to relentlessly pursue with his hate those who threatened his power, was very bitter against the Duke of Guise and his followers.

King Phillip of Spain supplies the Duke with funds to assist him in gaining possession of the French throne. Phillip himself wishing to avenge the death of Mary Queen of Scots attacks England, while Guise will have to take Paris and recommence a civil war in France in order to prevent the latter from interfering with Philip in his war against England.



MR. ROBINNE

The Spanish fleet sailed on May 28th, 1588, to wage war with England, and Guise arrived in Paris the next day and began immediately barricading the streets of that city. The King meanwhile, acting under his mother's advice, leaves Paris, and it would seem as if the ambition of the Duke were about to be realized.

Henry III. (still in hiding) and the Duke of Guise, who is master of the situation, await with anxiety news of the fate of the Spanish fleet, for they both understand that if it were victorious, Phillip's ambition would be boundless, and France lost to Henry III. After some time word comes that the Spanish fleet has been defeated, and as soon as Henry III. hears the news, he, realizing that he has nothing more to fear, resolves to lose no time in putting the Duke of Guise out of the way.

Our story starts at this point of the rivalry between the King and Duke; the opening scene is in the home of the Marchioness of Noirmoutiers, whom

the Duke of Guise is visiting. A letter is handed to the former, stating that the King is planning to do the Duke harm and begging her to prevent him from going to the council chamber. After reading the letter, the Marchioness hands it to the Duke, entreating him not to go to the King, but he only smiles and writes the words "He dare not" on the back of the note. Shortly afterwards he sets out for the castle to have an audience with his majesty. In the meantime King Henry has arranged for the assassination of the Duke, and in order that there will be no opportunity for the doomed man to escape, he stations his votaries in the corridor outside of the council chamber. The King then sends for the Duke, who is waiting in an anteroom with his brother, the Cardinal, and a few friends who make a strong effort to dissuade him from obeying the King's call, for they realize that the latter means no good. But the brave Duke, brushing his friends aside, goes out into the corridor where the assassins are stationed and passes on to the King's chamber. Scarcely has



MR. LAMBERT

he crossed the threshold when he receives a sword thrust in the back. He clinches with several of his assailants and tries to defend himself, but is not equal to their combined strength, and soon falls at the foot of the King's bed, where he continues fighting off his would-be slayers until his strength gives out, when he heaves a deep sigh and passes away.

The King, who has witnessed the brutal murder from his hiding place among the curtains surrounding the bed, comes out elated over the successful termination of affairs. The clothes of the dead Duke are searched, and in them is found a note showing that the latter was receiving a large sum of money each month to carry on the war in France. The King, realizing that the great power of the House of Guise is destroyed forever and that he has nothing more to fear, orders the body removed, and falls on his knees offering up prayers of thanksgiving that his most powerful enemy has finally been removed from his path.

PATHE FRERES

Film d'Art

Assassination of the
Duke of Guise

Length - - - - - 853 Feet

Extra Charge - - - - - \$ 25.⁰⁰/₁₀₀

Release Day: February 17th, 1909

Extracts from some of the London papers, commenting upon the picture depicting the Assassination of the Duke of Guise.

Sunday Times.

"The Murder of the Duke of Guise," in which that historical crime is "reconstructed" after the French fashion. The series of pictures is singularly perfect, and the whole representation goes with such smoothness that it is difficult to realize that we are not witnessing an actual performance. The audience, which included many leading members of the profession, were deeply interested, and testified their appreciation of the newest Alhambra enterprise by loud applause.

The Globe.

A play specially written by M. Henri Levedan for this new form of cinematograph entertainment, dealing with "The Assassination of the Duke of Guise," and in which the characters were undertaken by Mlle. Gabrielle Robinne, M. Albert Lambert and M. Le Bargy, of the Comédie Française. The last was the most dramatic in its action, showing as it does the murder of the Duke.

Glasgow Herald.

Much more successful was a concentrated version of the assassination of the Duke of Guise, which has been specially prepared by M. Henri Levedan, the author of "Le Duel." The little drama had been splendidly stage-managed, and the principal parts had been played by Mlle. Gabrielle Robinne, M. Albert Lambert and M. Le Bargy.

The Sporting Life.

Finally the picture showed "The Murder of the Duke of Guise," in which the chief characters were played by M. Le Bargy, M.

Albert Lambert and Mlle. Gabrielle Robinne. It was all very grim and all very realistic, and in each case the wonderful facial expression and the power of the acting of the famous Parisian players who had come before the camera was made to tell. The substitutes of great French actors in short are placed before Londoners by means of the cinematograph again, a decided score for the Alhambra.

The Daily Telegraph.

"The Assassination of the Duke of Guise" was what the French call the reconstruction of that great historical crime. Here again the narrative was both artistically compressed and vivid, and the mind, filled with sympathy for the Duke and his wife, and indignation at the King and his assassins, made for itself an ample stage and a company of powerful actors. The scenes throughout are well chosen and are skillfully knitted together.

Reynold's Newspaper.

"The Assassination of the Duke of Guise," with Mlle. Gabrielle Robinne and MM. Albert Lambert and Le Bargy, were the plays presented and reproduced so faithfully that the facial play and gestures of these celebrated performers should prove a draw. Young actors and actresses, too, may find the films educative.

The Referee.

One of the pieces given on Friday, "The Assassination of the Duke of Guise," was specially invented for presentation in this fashion by a distinguished French dramatist, and the whole thing, for which some members of the

company of the Comédie Française passed as the chief figures, was intensely vivid and dramatic.

The Morning Post.

Even more elaborate is the third film, which shows the murder of the Duke of Guise at Blois in 1588. Henry III. has just heard of the destruction of the Spanish Armada, a severe blow to the aspiring Duke of Guise, whose chief "backer" is Phillip of Spain, and determines to have the Duke assassinated without delay. He instructs sundry of his gentlemen to murder the Duke, whom he summons to his council. Guise, despite many warnings, obeys the summons and is stabbed to death hard by the foot of the King's bed. The chief parts of this have been taken by M. Le Bargy, M. Albert Lambert and Mlle. Robinne, all of the Comédie Française. This is unquestionably the handsomest and most elaborate historical series yet shown, the wealth of detail being extraordinary, and the acting from the King down to the common soldier being clear and eloquent.

Daily News.

The third drama, "The Assassination of the Duke of Guise," specially written by M. Levedan, the author of "Le Duel," was much more successful. It was evidently a reproduction of the play, most realistically stage-managed. The assassination itself is enacted with a realism which certainly does thrill. Besides, M. Le Bargy, the Duke of Guise, gives a most skilful portrait of drawing suspicion and gallant facing of danger. The little play has been very well stage-managed and should be the most successful of the series.

M- PATHE FRERES

(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Alcohol and its Victims, Supplement for May 1902, 8 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Ali-baba and the forty Thieves, Supplement for August 1902, 10 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) The Sleeping Beauty, Supplement for January 1903, 16 pp	NjWOE
(Compagnie Generale de Phonographes Cinematographes et Appareils de Precision) Cinematographes Films, May 1903, 96 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) The Adventures of the ingenious hidalgo Don Quixote, Supplement for August 1903, 16 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Supplement for September and October 1903, 16 pp	NjWOE
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(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Supplement for January 1904, 16 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phoograph Co.) Supplement for February 1904, 12 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Christopher Columbus, [March 1904], 10 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Supplement for March and April 1904, 12 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Supplement for May-June 1904, 12 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Annie's Love-story, [May 1904], 10 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) The Strike, [July 1904], 8 pp	NjWOE
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(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Indians and Cow-Boys, [August 1904], 12 pp	NjWOE
(The Cinematograph and Phonograph Co.) Joseph Sold by his Brethren, [August 1904], 12 pp	NjWOE

(Pathe Cinematograph Co.) Pathe Films (oversize), [ca 1904], 1 p

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(Pathe Cinematograph Co.) Pathe Films, April 1906, 24 pp

NNMOMA

Bargain Sale, 20 September 1908, 4 pp

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(Pathe Freres, Film D'art) Assassination of the Duke of Guise,
[17 February 1909], 12 pp

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